

SENATE RESOLUTION 157

By Burks

A RESOLUTION relative to Senator Steve Cohen, his exemplary service to Tennessee as a legislator, and his possible departure from the Senate.

WHEREAS, it has been said that every person brings his own particular joy to his fellows, some people doing so when they enter a gathering, others when they leave; and

WHEREAS, with this wise adage in mind, it is our sad duty to address the somewhat possible departure of Senator Steve Cohen from these hallowed chambers, which still echo loudly with the endless pontification of Senators of Sessions Past and the silent screams of their dying legislation; and

WHEREAS, it is with mixed emotions that we contemplate Senator Cohen's potential exodus from Tennessee's Capitol Hill to the more polished, pedantic, and prosperous Capitol Hill of Washington, D.C.; and

WHEREAS, on one hand, we shall certainly miss the Distinguished Gentleman from the 31st Senatorial District, both personally and professionally, for he brings intelligence, passion, and a certain savoir faire to all of his endeavors; on the other hand, it would bring us great joy to see someone from the Senate serve in this position of importance; and

WHEREAS, a media-savvy legislator who never met an acronym he didn't like until he tried to use M-A-D-D one session, Steve Cohen has basked in the limelight of media attention and often been quoted in such august publications as *Time* and *Newsweek* during his illustrious tenure in the Senate; we are left to wonder why he would want to forsake being a popular paragon at the state level to join the ranks of yet another nondescript group of freshmen Congressmen, who are lower on the political food chain than dogcatchers, or even the Vice President; and

WHEREAS, Senator Cohen has distinguished himself as a true friend and fierce protector of animals through his passage of the General Patton Act, the T-BO Act, animal cruelty offenses, and many other pieces of animal-friendly legislation; we can only surmise that it is his abiding love for our furry friends that has motivated him to seek entry into that great zoo in Washington known as the United States Congress; and

WHEREAS, because Senator Cohen is such a discriminating patron of the arts, it is hard for us to understand why he would willingly leave The Athens of the South for the cultural wasteland of Washington, where a *Hee Haw* reunion is a rarity except when Congress is in session; and

WHEREAS, while Senator Cohen was the chief proponent of bringing legalized gambling and its high moral ground to Tennessee, the odds are not in favor of him attending Congress on a HOPE Scholarship; and

WHEREAS, as we consider his potential skedaddle from the Senate for the possibly greener pastures, rivers of red ink, and the even more poorly made sausage of the District of Columbia, we would like to offer Senator Cohen a few words of friendly advice; and

WHEREAS, even though he is an articulate and adept advocate for the First Amendment, we urge Senator Cohen to exercise his own First Amendment rights with more discretion and less frequency in Washington, excluding the right to remain silent, which he should utilize more frequently, or else be prepared to face the wrath of his 434 fellow members, who will perhaps not be as accommodating as his current colleagues; and

WHEREAS, Steve Cohen has rendered 24 years of dedicated and astute service to this Body, and has thus earned the support of his fellow Senators, regardless of our feelings about his career decisions; we must stand by him in this his hour of need and use all our faculties to convince him to seek treatment for a most severe case of Potomac Fever, other than the most effective remedy for this malady, which is death; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that if, and only if, Steve Cohen is elected to represent Tennessee's Ninth Congressional District, we lavish praise on his distinguished career in the General Assembly, bid him a fond farewell, and wish him even greater legislative

success in Washington as he pursues future endeavors in the enjoyment of wine while dining; provided, however, if for some unfathomable reason, he is still amongst us mere mortals next session, we recant the previous platitudes and instead warmly welcome the good Senator back to our convivial company and good graces, while firmly asserting that only a masochist would want to serve in Congress.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution either be prepared for presentation to Senator Cohen as a token our esteem or burned immediately, depending upon the outcome of the November election.